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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To highlight and promote freedom of the press worldwide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To highlight and promote freedom of the press worldwide.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Daniel Pearl Freedom  
5       of the Press Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Acts of violence against journalists and  
9       media personnel continue to rise in frequency, with  
10       very few of the attacks resulting in prosecution.

1           (2) According to the 2008 Annual Report by  
2           the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2008 at  
3           least 41 journalists were killed in connection with  
4           their work, and 125 were imprisoned.

5           (3) Reflecting the rise in influence of Internet  
6           reporting, an increasing number of online editors,  
7           bloggers, and web-based reporters are being impris-  
8           oned and websites are being closed because of offi-  
9           cial censorship.

10          (4) The United States and the international  
11          community agree that the safety and independence  
12          of journalists and the media are a matter of pressing  
13          international concern. On December 10, 1948, the  
14          United Nations General Assembly adopted the Uni-  
15          versal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 19 of  
16          the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states  
17          that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion  
18          and expression; this right includes freedom to hold  
19          opinions without interference and to seek, receive  
20          and impart information and ideas through any  
21          media and regardless of frontiers.”.

22          (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

23                (1) highlight and promote the work and accom-  
24                plishments of journalists and media organizations

1       that promote freedom of opinion and expression  
2       worldwide;

3           (2) draw attention to the conditions in coun-  
4       tries in which journalists are killed, imprisoned, kid-  
5       napped, threatened, or censored;

6           (3) offer protection for these individuals and  
7       media organizations by identifying to the inter-  
8       national community those countries where journal-  
9       ists are at the highest risk; and

10          (4) emphasize the significance of including free-  
11       dom of the press as enshrined in Article 19 of the  
12       Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a factor  
13       in United States foreign policy.

14   **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROMOTION OF FREE-**  
15                   **DOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE.**

16       (a) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall annually  
17       submit to Congress a report regarding the promotion of  
18       freedom of the press worldwide. The report shall be enti-  
19       tled the “Annual Report on the Status of Freedom of the  
20       Press Worldwide”.

21       (b) PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the  
22       Annual Report with the assistance of the Bureau of De-  
23       mocracy, Human Rights and Labor.

24       (c) CONTENTS.—The Annual Report shall contain  
25       the following information:

1           (1) A description of the status of freedom of  
2           the press in each country, including initiatives in  
3           favor of freedom of the press and efforts to improve  
4           or preserve, as appropriate, the independence of the  
5           media, together with an assessment of progress  
6           made as a result of those efforts.

7           (2) An identification of countries in which there  
8           were violations of freedom of the press, including di-  
9           rect physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect sources  
10          of pressure, and censorship by governments, mili-  
11          tary, intelligence, or police forces, criminal groups,  
12          or armed extremist or rebel groups.

13          (3) In countries where there are particularly se-  
14          vere violations of freedom of the press, the annual  
15          report shall address the following:

16                (A) Whether government authorities of  
17                each such country participate in, facilitate, or  
18                condone such violations of the freedom of the  
19                press.

20                (B) What steps the government of each  
21                such country has taken to preserve the safety  
22                and independence of the media, and to ensure  
23                the prosecution of those individuals who attack  
24                or murder journalists.

1 (d) ORGANIZATION.—The Annual Report shall be or-  
2 ganized in three parts, as follows:

3 (1) Part I shall consist of the identification of  
4 countries (and the associated assessment of their ef-  
5 forts) under subsection (c)(1).

6 (2) Part II shall consist of the identification of  
7 countries (and the associated assessment of their ef-  
8 forts) under subsection (c)(2).

9 (3) Part III shall consist of the identification of  
10 countries (and the associated assessment of their ef-  
11 forts) under subsection (c)(3).

12 (e) TIME FOR SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall  
13 submit the Annual Report on May 3 of each year, declared  
14 by the United Nations General Assembly as World Press  
15 Freedom Day, or the first day thereafter on which either  
16 House of Congress is in session.

17 (f) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—The Annual Report shall  
18 be submitted in unclassified form.

19 **SEC. 4. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall ad-  
21 minister a grant program with the aim of promoting free-  
22 dom of the press worldwide. The grant program shall be  
23 administered by the Department of State's Bureau of De-  
24 mocracy, Human Rights and Labor as part of the Human  
25 Rights Democracy Fund (HRDF).

1 (b) AMOUNTS AND TIME.—Grants may be awarded  
2 to nonprofit and international organizations in amounts  
3 ranging from \$70,000 to \$150,000 annually. Grants may  
4 span multiple years, up to five years.

5 (c) PURPOSE.—Grant proposals should promote and  
6 broaden press freedoms by strengthening the independ-  
7 ence of journalists and media organizations, promoting a  
8 legal framework for freedom of the press, or through pro-  
9 viding regionally and culturally-relevant training and  
10 professionalization of skills to meet international stand-  
11 ards in both traditional and digital media.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
14 retary of State \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010  
15 to 2014 to carry out this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—The term “Annual Re-  
19 port” means the Annual Report on the Status of  
20 Freedom of the Press Worldwide required under  
21 subsection (a).

22 (2) MEDIA ORGANIZATION.—The term “media  
23 organization” means a group or organization that  
24 gathers and disseminates news and information to  
25 the public (through any medium of mass commu-

1       nication) in a foreign country in which the group or  
2       organization is located, except that the term does  
3       not include a group or organization that is primarily  
4       an agency or instrumentality of the government of  
5       such foreign country. The term includes an indi-  
6       vidual who is an agent or employee of such group or  
7       organization who acts within the scope of such agen-  
8       cy or employment.

9               (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10       the Secretary of State.